

Appl. No. 10/665,539  
Amendment dated December 16, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A hand shield adapted for use with a hockey stick, comprising:

a flexible shield portion having a convex outer surface, a substantially concave inner surface configured to shield all or part of a hand, and an opening configured to accommodate a portion of a hockey stick that may be passed therethrough; and

an interior grip portion connected to said shield portion and extending away from said shield portion and configured so as to slidably embrace said hockey stick

Claim 2 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 wherein said interior grip portion extends away from the perimeter of said opening.

Claim 3 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 wherein said interior grip portion comprises a plurality of generally parallel flexible tabs.

Claim 4 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 wherein said opening is generally rectangular.

Claim 5 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 wherein said opening is configured so as to accommodate multiple cross-sectional configurations of said hockey stick.

Claim 6 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 5 wherein said configurations are a rectangular cross-section, a polygonal cross-section, a circular cross-section and an oval cross-

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section.

Claim 7 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 adapted for use with a hockey stick having a fixed butt end, wherein the perimeter of said opening is configured such that said hockey stick may be passed through said opening.

Claim 8 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 1 wherein the perimeter of said opening is flexible.

Claim 9 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a hockey stick.

Claim 10 (original): The hand shield as set forth in claim 9 wherein said hockey stick comprises a shaft and a blade.